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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Reverend Bruce Bigelow, Pastor, Lake Hills Baptist Church, Schererville, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Our Lord, we come before Thee and we gather together to do business, to do business for this Nation and for Thee. We have sought to follow Thee. You have said feed the hungry, and we have fed the hungry. You have said give drink to those that are thirsty, and we have given drink. We have blessed others abundantly because You have blessed us as a Nation in great abundance. You have blessed us beyond that which we deserve, and we thank You for Your graciousness and Your mercy to us.

I pray that You will bless the men and women of this Congress as they gather together and wrestle with the issues of the day. May You help us as a Nation to turn from selfishness and help us to show graciousness and love and kindness, ministering to those around us and meeting their needs. Bless this Congress as they act this day. May You lead them and bless them. In Jesus' name I pray it. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VISCLOSKY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution expressing appreciation for the contribution of Chinese art and culture and recognizing the Festival of China at the Kennedy Center.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND BRUCE BIGELOW

(Mr. VISCLOSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Reverend Bruce Bigelow, pastor of the Lake Hills Baptist Church in Schererville, Indiana.

Reverend Bigelow was born on the South Side of Chicago and was raised in Gary, Indiana. Reverend Bigelow began his life of service in 1967. For the past 32 years, he has served as the senior pastor of the Lake Hills Baptist Church and will be retiring this coming April.

In his time as pastor, Lake Hills Baptist Church has grown from less than 100 members to over 450 today. The church now includes a modern family life center. In addition, it joyfully gives 30 percent of all donations it receives to help support missionary projects in the community and around the world. The congregation also provides practical help to children, teenage and college age youths, young mothers, and senior adults. Through his actions and those of the members of the church, Reverend Bigelow has brightened and made meaningful so many lives.

Throughout his time in the ministry, Reverend Bigelow has been supported by his wife Janice, his dear wife of 40 years, who has joined him today. They

have three grown daughters and seven grandchildren, all who reside in Indiana.

Let us hope the words of his inspiring prayer will remain with us and his dedication to the ministry will always be appreciated.

EMINENT DOMAIN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last June, in a 5 to 4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the government may force property owners to sell their property to make way for private economic development when officials deem it beneficial to the public. With that decision, Susette Kelo and 15 of her neighbors lost their fight to hold on to their homes. One neighbor forced to sell her home was born there in 1918 and lived in the house her entire life.

The properties Kelo and her neighbors are being forced to abandon will not be a replaced with a needed road or school but with upscale housing and a marina.

The sanctity of private property is one that Americans hold dear, and this Supreme Court decision threatens that. This House has appropriately responded by offering the Protection of Homes, Small Businesses, and Private Property Act of 2005 which would protect property by limiting the power of eminent domain.

Mr. Speaker, the fifth amendment to the Constitution prohibits the government taking private property except for public use. The protection of our homes, small business, and other private property rights against government seizure is one of the fundamental principles this country was founded upon. If the highest court in the land will not protect this right, it is up to us to do so.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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